

I am personally offended by profanity and expletives such as the F word, the S word, the A-hole word, and all foul language words in conversations and in writing. Hollywood and the media continue to produce TV shows and "artistic" films that use these terms saying that such uses reflect our culture. On a day-to-day basis, I rarely encounter situations where people are using these words. I don't encounter them in my workplace, I don't encounter them when I'm out shopping, I don't encounter them at most all public events. I just do not encounter these words or situations in normal everyday life situations. Hollywood's continued insistence that it necessary to fill the media with these expletives and depictions of nudity, etc. is just an excuse to try to boost their film and television ratings. Expletive's in conversations are not normal every day events that are encountered by the people that I know or have known in the past (except in grade school). So, I'm not quite sure what world or what part of normal every day reality Hollywood and the media are trying to portray but I do know that they are offensive to me and a lot of other people.

As a parent I am offended and disappointed by the networks that would allow expletives and scenes of nudity on television during the viewing hours for children. I consider it irresponsible, and quite frankly it seems pretty desperate on their part to get ratings.

The F word symbolizes fornication or sex outside of marriage. It is neither desirable nor something to be emulated by teens or adolescents, or responsible adults for that matter. As parents we try to do everything we can to protect our children from irresponsible behavior. In popular culture it is a slang term to define things as being good, hip, sleazy, messed up, etc.

Our government needs to continue to protect our children and those of us who are offended by these words and sexually explicit depictions in the media. It needs to continue to take the high road. It must help us and it must ignore the powerful media executives and not cater to their need for higher ratings with such base media marketing tactics.

If we look at how and why we want to refrain from profanity and depictions of nudity and sexual content in our general media, then let's look at great humanists, philosophers and religions and see what they encourage us to do to raise us above some of the worst elements of our destructive human nature.

For Christians, the apostle Paul stated it this way in his letter to the Ephesians, "But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person such a person is an idolater has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God".

Ephesians 5:3 Holy Bible NIV

For Muslims, "one of the hallmarks of righteous behavior is good speech. A person who stays mindful of Allah (God) will want to refrain from sins of the tongue such as backbiting, slander, gossip, lying, swearing, cursing and vain talk. The Qur'an and Hadith (the narrated traditions of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him\*) warn against these sins of the tongue".

"Guarding one's speech is so important that Muslims will be held accountable for everything they say: Not a word does he (or she) utter but there is a watcher by him ready (to record it) (Qur'an 50:18)".

Shaikh Ahmad Zamzami's Advice on the Bad Consequences of the Tongue (Jam'iat Ihya' Minhaaj al-Sunnah, June 1999).

For Hindus, Lord Krishna says in the Bhagvad Gita, "swearing is not allowed in Hinduism as in all religions".

For Mormons, President Spencer W. Kimball told their Mormon Church, "We, as good Latter-day Saints do not use foul language. We do not curse or defame. We do not use the Lord's name in vain" (1981, p. 5).

To strip profanity and vulgarity from one's vocabulary not only is commendable and a mark of refinement but it is also a commandment from God. Early members of the Mormon Church were told in a general epistle that "the habit of using vulgarity and profanity is not only offensive to all well-bred persons, but it is a gross sin in the sight of God, and should not exist among the children of the Latter-day Saints" (MFP 3:112-13). Profanity makes the holy profane, the sacred commonplace, the serious flippant, and the precious cheap.

So, let's refrain from offending all of these different types of people, religions, and especially refrain from exposing our children to profanity and any additional nudity in the media. I am pleading with the powers that be that we take the high road in our American form of government and continue to keep the airways free of profane talk and adult and sexual imagery.

Thank you very much, MW Rigler, Monroe, Georgia